

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4259

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0975

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE COOKE ON US/JAMAICAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH ME ATTENDED BY AID DIRECTOR CHARLES CAMPBELL, MARCH 1, MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE COOKE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT MY MEETING WITH PATTERSON ON DE BORCHGRAVE ARTICLE. HE GAVE ASSURANCES JAMAICA WOULD NOT COPY CUBAN STYLE OF GOVERNMENT. COOKE ALSO ELABORATED ON CURRENT MODERATE/RADICAL SPLIT IN PNP SAYING MATTER LIKELY TO RESULT IN SHOWDOWN BY MARCH 26 PNP MEETING. COOKE PUT IN A STRONG PLEA FOR U.S. "RESPONSIVENESS". END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE COOKE (REPORTED MEMCON TO DEPT.)N MARCH 1, I RAISED DE BORCHAGRAVE ARTICLE, EXPRESSING REGRET ARTICLE HAD APPEARED ON EVE OF FONMIN PATTERSON'S U.S. VISIT. COOKE SAID TIMING HAD INDEED BEEN UNFORTUNATE. HOWEVER, HE SAID PATTERSON HAD REPORTED ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ME ON THE ARTICLE AND THAT MY RESPONSE HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND APPRECIATED BY GOVERNMENT.

3. ON THE CONCERNS OF DE BORCHGRAVE AND OTHERS OVER THE  
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CUBAN/JAMAICAN RELATIONSHIP, COOKE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THESE CONCERNS BUT HE GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE CUBAN STYLE OF GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO JAMAICA. HE HYPOTHESIZED THAT IF THE U.S. HAD REACTED DIFFERENTLY TO CASTRO AT THE BEGINNING, CUBA MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN FORCED INTO ITS DEPENDENCY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USSR.

4. COOKE WAS CRITICAL OF PNP LEFTISTS AND INDICATED THAT HE AND OTHERS OF THE PARTY WERE IN ACTIVE OPPOSITION. HE SAID THAT THE RADICAL ELEMENTS OF THE PNP WERE A SMALL MINORITY BUT WERE MORE VOCAL THAN THE MODERATES. HE INDICATED HOWEVER THAT THERE WAS A GROWING SOLIDIFICATION OF THE MODERATE ELEMENTS OF THE PNP, AND THAT A SHOWDOWN ON IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS WAS IN THE OFFING AND WAS EXPECTED TO OCCUR DURING THE PARTY CAUCUS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 26. HE SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS LIKE A MAN RIDING TWO HORSES ATTEMPTING TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOTH GROUPS. HE SAID THAT THE PM WAS NOT A MARXIST AND THAT HE WAS DEDICATED TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE THAT WOULD PROVIDE GREATER BENEFITS FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION. THE PM HAS STRESSED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN RECENT CABINET SESSIONS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RE-ESTABLISHING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT CRITICISM LEVELED AT THE US HAD TO BE STOPPED.

5. COOKE THEN ASKED FOR MY ADVICE ON WHAT JAMAICA AND THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT COULD DO TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. I SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE THAT JAMAICA COULD, DESPITE ITS DIFFICULTIES, EMERGE AS A STABLE, ECONOMICALLY VIABLE, AND DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY. COOKE SAID THE SELECTION OF P J PATTERSON AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS A CALCULATED DECISION ON PART OF THE PM TO HELP IMPROVE US JAMAICAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT PATTERSON WAS A SINCERE, HONEST, DEDICATED INDIVIDUAL, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THAT HE AND PATTERSON WERE CLOSE COLLEAGUES AND SHARED THE SAME VIEWS AND POSITIONS.

6. COOKE SAID IT WAS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE US BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE IN JAMAICA'S HOUR OF NEED. HE IMPLIED THAT IF US SUPPORT WERE WITHHELD JAMAICA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RECOVER FROM THE PRESENT CRISIS AND THE POSITION OF THE RADICALS WOULD BE GREATLY STRENGTHENED. THEY MIGHT THEN FORCE A DECISION TO SEEK HELP ELSEWHERE. I CAUTIONED THAT THERE WERE LIMITS TO WHAT THE USG COULD DO IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE, BUT STATED THAT I WAS SURE MINISTER PATTERSON WOULD BE GIVEN A SYMPATHETIC HEARING AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF U S GOVERNMENT. I SUGGESTED THAT GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF JAMAICA'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, THE MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH MIGHT BE A CONSORTIUM EFFORT INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER CONCERNED COUNTRIES. HE REFLECTED POSITIVELY ON THIS POSSIBILITY. GERARD

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